

Communities

Assistant Director Tom Barker

The Communities Service Area includes: Safe Communities (including community safety, anti-social behaviour, safeguarding and the Community Safety Partnership)

Strong Communities (including grants, external funding, community development, and community rights)

Healthy Communities and Policy (including health and wellbeing, health interventions and preventative activity)

Main Achievements and Outcomes October - December 2019

A Communities Health and Wellbeing Officer has been supporting the development of a Dementia Action Awareness Group in Sudbury from October 2019. The social prescribing group with Sudbury G.P. surgery at Hardwick House have signed up to the Haverhill Link scheme with Primary Care Network funding. On 26th November 60 people attended a conference in Bildeston to hear presentations from members of the Communities team and other colleagues on the 'Effect of Loneliness and Social Isolation within rural communities.' The event was well received and is an indication of the new networks which have been created for people in the Bildeston area.

The Health and Wellbeing Team have initiated a new approach by applying the Healthy Towns Programme which is an NHS England initiative which sets out the 10 Principles for Healthy Place making. Working in partnership with Public Health Suffolk they have started a series of lunchtime seminars with BMSDC Planning colleagues to review the evidence from ten demonstrator sites. Officers are also working closely to support Social Prescribing across both District areas. Schemes are now active across the Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG area and being developed across the areas covered by the West Suffolk CCG.

Following the successful Sudbury Silk Festival in September, planning has started for maximising its legacy. Local skilled Volunteers have come forward to start organising the 2021 Festival which will include work on the 2020 summer event, focusing on textile makers and crafters. This will help with the sustainability of silk-related activity by engaging local people as organisers.

Since October the community grants team has conducted site visits to discuss potential community projects and sources of funding including the following; Bures Play Area - to fence off the children's play area and upgrade play equipment, East Bergholt Sports Ground - to improve facilities within the pavilion, East Bergholt Constable Hall - to upgrade kitchen facilities and internal building work to connect kitchen to meeting room and Acton Village Hall - to upgrade and enhance kitchen facilities. Capital funding and Section 106 has been secured in support of the Assington playground. The team is conducting joint site visits with officers from the Public Realm team for play and open space projects to provide potential applicants with advice and guidance on types of equipment and British Safety Standards and is also working with the Environmental Management Officer, to provide energy efficiency assessments for village halls and sports pavilions. The review of community grants is progressing, a Member task and finish group is now established.